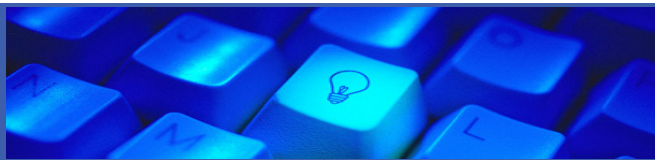


Unemployment Insurance MICHIGAN EMPLOYER ADVISOR

Fall 2016

FROM THE
director



You Can Help in the Fight Against Fraud

Dear Employer:

In today's high-tech, fast-paced world, identity theft is a major concern for both the private and public sector. There has been a significant increase in the attempts to file fraudulent claims to get unemployment benefits across the nation, and in Michigan.

The Agency conducts ongoing reviews and updates of our systems and procedures in the fight against fraudsters attempting to get unemployment benefits — often through identity theft.

We recently made an update to the Michigan Web Account Manager (MiWAM) to make it easier for employers to report and provide us with information when identity theft is suspected (see story, p. 2), and more identity protections will be added soon.

In the past couple of months, the Agency has prevented payment on more than 3,000 claims, avoiding a potential loss of over \$20 million, but there is much more to be done. To stamp out fraud and identity theft, your help is critical.

One of the best ways to protect the integrity of the unemployment insurance system and your tax dollars is to prevent improper payments from happening.

You can help in this effort by making sure to carefully review any monetary determination (Form UIA 1575E) that we send to you. If you notice inaccurate information, or if the employee referenced is still working for you, please notify us immediately by protesting the monetary determination through MiWAM. Because the Agency allows 10 days for an employer to respond to the monetary determination, timely notification will help prevent a suspected fraudulent claim from being paid.

To find out more about how you can protect your business from unemployment identity theft, visit our website at Michigan.gov/uia for **Fact Sheet # 167, Protecting Your Business and Employees from Identity Theft**.

Thank you for your help in ensuring the protection of unemployment benefits and your tax dollars.

Sincerely,

Sharon Moffett-Massey, Director
Unemployment Insurance

THE MICHIGAN EMPLOYER ADVISOR

is a Talent Investment Agency
newsletter for Michigan
employers about unemploy-
ment insurance.

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Reporting Potential Fraud

IDENTITY THEFT OCCURS WHEN someone uses another person's information to take on his or her identity. In the case of unemployment benefits, thieves can use a person's name, Social Security Number, wage or employment information to apply for and obtain unemployment benefits.

If you suspect fraud or ID theft, or you suspect someone is making a fraudulent claim, **immediately** protest the *Monetary Determination* or the *Bi-weekly Statement of Charges/Credits to the Employer's Account*.

To make sure you can report fraud as soon as possible, the File Monetary Protest/Appeal screen on MiWAM has been updated to specifically address potential identity theft and fraudulent claims. Employers are now able to report suspected identity theft as the reason for their protest.

File Monetary Protest/Appeal

Attachment Instructions:
To add the attachment please click the 'Add' link at the top of the page.
To remove an unwanted attachment, click the red 'X' to the far right of the item in the attachment panel.
Once all attachments have been added, please click the 'Submit' button located to the upper or lower right.

Letter ID	Claimant Name
Letter Sent 09/21/2016	Claimant SSN ***-**-0444

Is this protest related to ID Theft?

ID Theft as used here means a UI claim has been filed for the purpose of fraudulently collecting unemployment. Does this apply?

Please encourage the individual to call our Fraud Hotline at 1-855-UI-CRIME (1-855-842-7463).

Please provide any additional information here. If you wish to supply supporting documentation, please see the instructions above.

On the File Monetary Protest/Appeal Screen, click yes if protest is related to ID theft. You may also provide additional information and attach supporting documentation.

MiWAM Updated to Serve You Better

MiWAM HAS RECENTLY BEEN UPDATED to serve you better! Although many of the changes are cosmetic, giving you an updated look and feel, there are some added features, designed to enhance your user experience:

■ **View Support ID** provides a number which can be given to an agent for help with MiWAM screens. With the Support ID number, the agent will be able to better assist customers by viewing exactly what the customer is viewing on their MiWAM page.

■ **Recent Items** is a new tab available on the user's MiWAM account home page. By clicking Recent Items, the user can see prior activities, letters and notices all in one place.

■ **Manage Reports and Payment** is a new screen which provides information to the employer about their tax reports and payments.

You will also notice that it's now easier to log in to MiWAM when you're on the go. The log-in and home pages for MiWAM have been updated to be compatible with your smartphone or tablet.



Q What is a Notice of Determination of Employer Charging?

An employer will receive Form UIA 6367, *Notice of Determination of Employer Charging*, when they fail to respond adequately or timely to requests for information from the Agency.

A This notice, generally issued in the month of January, lets employers know that they have the potential to be charged for any claims for which they do not provide an adequate or timely response in the calendar year.

Benefits paid to a claimant will be charged to an employer's account if the employer has shown a pattern of failing to respond.

By law, a pattern is defined as failing to timely and adequately

respond to requests for information more than 4 times (and to 2 percent or more of requests) during the prior calendar year. The agency gathers, tracks and analyzes response data to determine a pattern on an annual basis.

Responding completely and within the allotted time frame is the most effective way to prevent being charged for benefits paid to an unqualified claimant, and ultimately, higher taxes. Respond to information requests from the Agency, even if you do not wish to contest a claim. Failing to respond is counted as an untimely or inadequate response and will impact the annual evaluation.

When you receive Form UIA 1713, *Request for Information Relative to Possible Ineligibility or Disqualification*, be sure to complete the form within 10 calendar days of the mail date, and fully respond to all the questions asked. To ensure the quickest response, return the form online through your MiWAM account at michigan.gov/uia.

(continued on page 4)

(Ask the Advisor — continued from page 3)

Q If an employee is suspended without pay pending an investigation for possible discipline or discharge, are they able to collect unemployment benefits?

A Maybe, depending on the circumstances. State law (Michigan Employment Security Act) says that an individual is disqualified from receiving unemployment benefits if the person was “suspended or discharged for misconduct connected with the individual’s work . . .”

In some cases an employee may be subject to a suspension first, and then discharged following an investigation. If a worker is suspended before the employer can prove that the person engaged in misconduct, then the individual may not be disqualified. If, however, the suspension is based upon an investigation which proves misconduct, then the claimant would be disqualified.

Michigan Earns \$2.5 Million Federal Grant to Expand Job Opportunities in Skilled Trades

MICHIGAN’S EFFORTS TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES through skilled trades careers and help residents gain good-paying jobs is getting a boost through a \$2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, Talent Investment Agency Director Wanda M. Stokes announced today.

The Michigan Workforce Development Agency’s grant — the second-largest awarded — will support the expansion of registered apprenticeship opportunities for women, veterans and other underrepresented populations throughout the state.

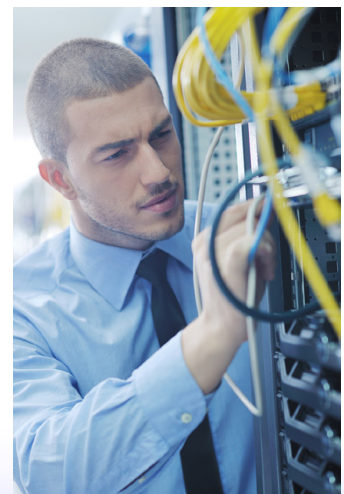
“There are excellent job opportunities in the skilled trades, and this grant will help Michiganders gain in-demand skills that will lead to careers,” Gov. Rick Snyder said. “We’ve made great progress in Michigan, but we know there is more to do to close the skills gap and develop talent in our state. Our goal is to lead the nation in growing talent, helping our residents now and long into the future.”

The grant will expand a learning network for employers and intermediaries to grow apprenticeships in targeted industries and occupations including agriculture, construction, energy, healthcare, information technology, and manufacturing.

The effort will increase the number of registered apprenticeships in Michigan by five percent by May 2018, including at least 1,004 new apprentices. Key proposal partners include Automation Alley, Southeast Michigan Community Alliance, United Auto Workers, Northwest Michigan Works!, Southwest Michigan Works!, West Michigan Works! and UPWARD Talent Council.

The grant is part of the national ApprenticeshipUSA program awarding \$50.5 million to 36 states and one territory, focusing on residents who might not have had apprenticeship efforts in the past. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 91 percent of apprentices are employed after completing their programs, with an average starting wage above \$60,000.

“We appreciate the support from our federal delegation and the Obama administration. This grant is affirmation of the effort we have made here in Michigan to strengthen our families and our economy,” Stokes said. “We’re proud of the efforts we’ve made, but we are focused on doing even more. Employers locate and grow where there is talent, leading to more and better jobs. This grant lets us reach even more people and help provide them with a brighter future.”





Employer Reminder

Keep your address updated!

■ Because the Agency issues fact finding forms, determinations, redeterminations, and other items which can affect an employer's unemployment insurance taxes and a claimant's benefit rights, it is very important that you keep your contact information up to date. You can update your address right in your MiWAM account. Just log into your account and select the current Claim ID. Select Names and Addresses in the upper right tab.

How are we
doing?

I'll go
online and let
you know.

Take Our Customer Survey

The Talent Investment Agency works to deliver high quality, innovative unemployment services to our customers. Please help us in our efforts to better serve you by completing our customer survey online. Complete the survey at:

michigan.gov/uia

THE MICHIGAN EMPLOYER ADVISOR

is a Talent Investment Agency publication for Michigan employers about unemployment insurance.




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State of Michigan

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**Stay connected with Michigan Talent
Investment Agency:**  

TIA is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids, services and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

State of Michigan; Department of Talent and Economic Development; Talent Investment Agency; Unemployment Insurance Agency
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Please direct questions, suggestions and comments to: employeradvisor@michigan.gov